QPF Process IWG Telephone Conference Call
21 December 1999

Primary Discussion Topics/Actions

1. Reviewed Corporate Board QPF Time Line tasks/actions.

• Reviewed new tasks/actions agreed to by the QPF process IWG during the 30 Nov-1 Nov meeting at NWSH. These tasks/actions were added to the original 10 November 1999 Corporate Time Line.

• Discussed Mandt to Uccellini and Nipko memo requesting NMAP and its installation as a local application at the 9 RFCs east of the Continental Divide. Bill Lawrence of the ABRFC expressed a desire to obtain the NMAP software ASAP to commence NWSRFS integration work. NMAP is scheduled to be delivered to the ABRFC (Bill Lawrence) NLT 6 January 2000.

> Action: Reynolds/HPC to request NCEP/NCO provision of software prior to new year to enable NWSRFS integration work to commence.

• Peter Gabrielsen reported that Robb Shedd would like to assist Bill Lawrence with NMAP integration.

> Action: Lawrence/ABRFC coordinate NMAP integration work with Rob Shedd/NERFC.

2. Discussed issuance of QPF from WFOs after the modified process is implemented

• Corporate Board directives:
  ▸ HPC and HAS personnel will produce QPF products for use in river forecast models for all RFCs east of the Continental Divide
  ▸ HPC and HAS QPF products will be distributed to external NWS customers and partners
  ▸ *All WFOs may, if they have a local requirement, produce QPFs for internal and external local use*

• Discussed the IFPS Revised Digital Forecast (RDF) product and the Zone Formatter. QPF is currently included in the RDF, however, the zone formatter utilizes precipitation intensity rather than QPF when generating the text zone product [i.e., QPF does not affect the zones or any other product (phrases like "heavy rain" result from the chosen rainfall intensity, not QPF)]. Given the Corporate Board agreement that local generation of QPF at WFOs east of the Continental Divide should be based upon local requirements (and not the requirements of NWSRFS), the generation of QPF at WFOs is not mandatory.

WFOs, at their discretion, should generate QPF in accordance with local requirements. To support this new policy, Dave Ruth of OSD-APO agreed to provide a toggle in Build 5 that will allow a WFO to select or de-select QPF when preparing the RDF. Therefore, a WFO can choose to not produce a QPF. This toggle will have to be selected or de-selected with each forecast run.

> Action: Ruth/OSD-APO implement AWIPS functionality to select/de-select QPF when generating RDF in Build 5.0.

3. Discussed CFO Implementation Resource Request

- Coordinated Office /Regional responses to QPF Time Line task which reads:

    > "December 23: Each Region and Office Director will provide the CFO FY00 and FY01 resource assessment/impacts for implementation of modified QPF process. Action: Each Region and Office."

    > Note: please cc or forward emails/memos to Mandt /Graziano (for tracking)

- Potential resource areas considered included: training/travel, software development, hardware/disk storage, coordination (phone charges).

- The OM request will cover training costs.

- APO resource assessment includes AWIPS development costs.

- It was agreed that a final assessment of costs should be deferred until/updated after the (June-July) OT&E is completed (see 7 August 2000 Time Line task)

- The cost of blast-up teleconferencing was discussed. WR provided per conferee costs (see Dec 15 task), however, estimates from Herb White of OM were lower [Herb stated the average cost per conferee is roughly 11 cents/per minute/per conferee].

4. Training

- NMAP training will be on-station at RFCs by HPC staff [Graziano and Reynolds will develop coordinated training plan by 31 January 2000]

- GFE training will provided by NWSTC beginning the 3rd quarter of FY00 (GFE will be provided with AWIPS Build 5.0 but not "activated" at a WFO until the office receives the NWSTC training)

5. Transfer of HPC guidance to RFCs

- Redbook graphics will be sent via SBN

- VGF files will be ftp'd (point-to-point) – for RFCs east of the Continental Divide

- SHEF-encoded point forecasts will be ftp'd (point-to-point) – for RFCs west of the Continental Divide